

PRAIRIE PULSE



February 2021

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Chicken N Pickle Groundbreaking

Chicken N Pickle broke ground on Friday, January 22. Mayor Ron Jensen and Chicken N Pickle founder Dave Johnson led councilmembers, city employees and community members in creating a great first memory for Chicken N Pickle.

Chicken N Pickle plans to open its doors in late 2021 for people to enjoy the wildly popular indoor/outdoor entertainment complex. Pickleball courts and a variety of games will be offered alongside a casual, chef driven restaurant and sports bar.

The 77,000-square-foot venue will feature a dining room, six indoor pickleball courts, five outdoor pickleball courts (two covered), and 7,500 square feet of outdoor yard games. A large rooftop bar, stages for live performances and

all of the signature lawn games for which Chicken N Pickle is known round out the property. When completed, Chicken N Pickle - Grand Prairie will begin hosting pickleball clinics for beginners or advanced players and pickleball tournaments.



Learn more about the Chicken N Pickle groundbreaking ceremony online:

www.gptx.org

Teresa Coomes Celebrates 40 Years of Service

Teresa Coomes, Administrative Services Division Manager for the Police Department, celebrated 40 years of employment with the city in August 2020. Coomes began her career just after high school as a switchboard operator for the Police Department working midnights. She eventually moved on to work as a Police 911 operator for 17 years. In 1983, she attended the Police Academy and became a Grand Prairie Police Reserve Officer and was sworn in by Police Chief David Kunkle while working full time in Communications. In 1990, Coomes was promoted to Communications Supervisor and then was named Police Department Records Supervisor in 1997. She has been in her current position since 2013 and also serves as the Public Safety Software Liaison. Best wishes for many more years of success and accomplishment Teresa!



City Hall West Relocation

City Hall West will be under construction for the completion of a HVAC Project beginning in February. The **Communications, Information Technology** and **Water** departments

will be moving to the City Hall Annex and FAB. After the HVAC project is complete these departments will return to their permanent locations in City Hall West.

City Council Special Election

An election will be held on February 27, 2021, to fill a vacancy for the District 2 unexpired city council term. All offices are held for a three-year term. The newly elected official would complete the current term, which expires May 2022.

Polling locations will be posted to the [Grand Prairie website](#) as soon as they are determined. Election information may also be found on the [Dallas County](#) and [Tarrant County](#) elections websites.

Clean Prairie Art Contest

Show your creativity and care for the environment with the Clean Prairie Art Contest. Become a contestant by creating art to represent how to keep

Grand Prairie litter free. Submissions are due no later than February 26, 2021. For complete contest guidelines, visit www.gptx.org/cleanprairie.

City Hall Mail Room Relocation

Effective Monday, Feb. 8, the mail room will open at a new location in City Hall East. Please use the current location in City Hall West until Friday, Feb. 5. For questions about mail service, contact Danny Ervin from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at dervin@gptx.org or 972-237-7908 or Sylvia Molinar at smolinar@gptx.org or 972-237-8201.



Luxury, High-End Yurts at Loyd Park

Loyd Park is now home to luxury Yurts! This addition to Loyd Park brings a glamorous feeling for guests during their camping experience. Amenities include an above-ground propane fire pit on a paved seating area with outdoor furniture, walk-in shower

with rain shower head, quartz countertops, cooktop and microwave, satellite TV, high-end luxury furniture, queen bed, skylight, heat and air conditioning, private deck, and much more! Learn more about this new experience on LoydPark.com.

Grand Prairie and Irving Open COVID-19 Vaccination Site

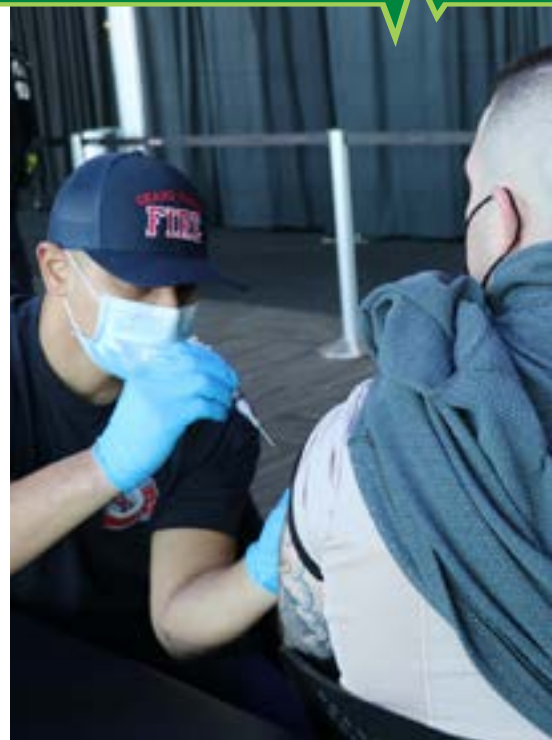
The cities of Grand Prairie and Irving will operate a new COVID-19 vaccination site at The Theatre at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie, TX 75050 (Belt Line just north of Interstate 30 next to Lone Star Park). The facility will operate only when vaccine is available.

The location is co-managed by Grand Prairie and Irving Emergency Management, and the vaccines are administered by Irving and Grand Prairie Emergency Medical Services. The Theatre at Grand Prairie site **is not open to walk ups**. Vaccines will only be given to individuals who have registered and re-

ceived confirmation that their vaccine is available at the Theatre at Grand Prairie site. Vaccination location assignment is determined by Dallas County and Tarrant County.

Individuals who qualify for phase 1A or 1B criteria are encouraged to register for the vaccine at www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination.php or call 469-749-9900 and <https://tcph.quickbase.com/db/bq3q4uet8> or call 817-248-6299. Individuals will be assigned to a location that has the vaccine ready for them.

For more information, visit gptx.org/covid-19



Wellness: Cardiovascular Screening

Vascular screenings can help identify risks that could lead to a stroke or heart attack. It goes beyond your regular physical to look inside your arteries for signs of buildup and plaque. On Tuesday, Feb. 9 and Friday, Feb. 12 from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. employees and spouses can schedule an appointment for a screening at City Hall, 300 W. Main Street, by contacting Cathey at catheyc@premiercorporatwellness.com. Bring a photo ID and your insurance card to the screening appointment.

Screening includes:

- Carotid ultrasound – screens for plaque in the carotid arteries to detect and help prevent strokes.
- Duplex ultrasound of extremities – screens for narrowing or blockage in lower extremities.

Who is at risk (does not include all risk factors):

- High blood pressure or cholesterol
- Family history of heart disease or stroke
- Do not exercise regularly



- Age 40 and over
- Diet/Obesity
- Diabetes
- Smoking

Peerfit Lunch n Learn

Save a little extra money and make it a *bring your lunch to work day!* Please plan on joining us for a virtual Lunch n Learn with Peerfit's own Jeni Dowst. During the lunch and learn she will focus on Peerfit's partnership with Les Mills, their new personalized coaching offering.

Maximize your at-home performance. Use your Peerfit credits toward expert coaching with LES MILLS. Experience coaching from industry-leading professionals.

Maximize Performance

See results through safe and effective workouts hand-picked by your LES MILLS coach.

Built-In Motivation

Professional support helps keep you accountable and naturally motivated to keep going.

Tailor-Made Training

Goal-setting advice and tailored training plans help you set and achieve personal goals.

Beyond Fitness

Nutrition and recovery advice help fuel an all-encompassing healthy lifestyle.

Visit peerfit.com/lesmills to start your journey.

Questions? We have answers. Contact us at support@peerfit.com

City of Grand Prairie Employee Newsletter



To join us for this exciting Lunch n Learn opportunity please register at the following Zoom Meeting link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vd-GgrzspGNBDGzptEJZSrQPkyPY-qvPeH](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vd-GgrzspGNBDGzptEJZSrQPkyPY-qvPeH)

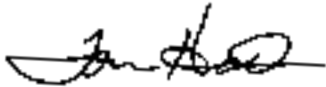
Message from the Manager

Congratulations to all employees who received years of service awards in January. The service award symbolizes the time employees have given to make Grand Prairie the world class city it is today. The longevity of many of our employees has truly helped Grand Prairie achieve continuity and excellence while providing city services. Please know that we appreciate all members of our employee team—you are an extremely important part of our city's success. I would also like to give special recognition to Teresa Coomes, Administrative Services Manager for the Police Department for completing 40 years with the city. Please read more about Teresa in this newsletter. Congratulations Teresa on this impressive milestone.

As we dive into 2021, Grand Prairie's local economy looks bright, despite setbacks due to COVID-19. Here are some highlights:

- The city celebrated a ground breaking with Chicken N Pickle on Jan. 22. The venue will feature 16,000 square feet of dining space and another 16,000 square feet of indoor pickleball courts linked by outdoor courts, games and hospitality spaces. Chicken N Pickle is the first of several restaurants that will open in EpicCentral.
- Many of Grand Prairie's largest employers are thriving including Lockheed Martin's Missiles & Fire Control and Airbus Helicopters
- Residential development is still moving forward, particularly in the city's far southern sector in Ellis County where more than 4,500 single-family homes will be built.
- Many of Grand Prairie's existing retailers and restaurants have added curbside and drive through services allowing them to remain open.

A big shout out to our Emergency Management team and EMS staff for working with the City of Irving to open a COVID-19 vaccine site at The Theatre at Grand Prairie. The vaccine supply is limited, so the facility will operate as vaccines become available. The site is not open to walk ups and only individuals who are registered and have received confirmation to be vaccinated at the Theatre at Grand Prairie will be accepted. Please continue to be safe, socially distance and wear a mask.



Tom Hart
City Manager

BCBSTX Well onTarget Fitness Program

New Member Special: Join the Fitness Program and pay NO FEE in February! Beginning February 1, new members can join the Fitness Program and pay no enrollment fee. Sign up by February 28 to get this great deal!

The Fitness Program offers flexible options and access to a nationwide network of fitness locations.

Other features of the Fitness Program include:

- Online enrollment, tracking as well as a mobile app with check-in and activity history
- A choice of gym networks and studio classes to fit your budget and preferences.
- BurnAlong: Access thousands of dig-

ital fitness videos, live classes and fitness programs at no extra cost

- Weekly Blue Points for regular visits. You will earn 2,500 bonus points for joining the Fitness Program. Redeem points for apparel, books, electronics, health and personal care items, music and sporting goods.

To enroll, log in to Blue Access for Members (BAM) at bcbstx.com and search for the Fitness Program under Quick Links. You will need to enter the code STARTIN-FEB during enrollment to join for free before February 28.

If you have any questions or prefer to enroll over the phone, call 888-762-BLUE (2583) Monday - Friday, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., CT (6 a.m. and 6 p.m., MT).

Toastmasters Member Spotlight

The Grand Orators Toastmasters Club, for City of Grand Prairie employees, meets on Wednesdays at 12:05 p.m. via Zoom. Toastmasters Club Sergeant at Arms, Yolanda Nolan joined in 2018. She was promoted to Utility Services Customer Service Supervisor and joined Toastmasters with a goal to enhance her public speaking skills and become a better leader.



“I have worked for the city since 1994, have received much training, and have developed greatly under my current leadership. This, along with my involvement in Toastmasters, will aid in me reaching that goal,” Nolan said. “It is truly a blessing to have the opportunity to be a part of something GRAND!”

Anyone can join in the Toastmasters meetings here: <https://gptx.zoom.us/j/778600369>
Phone: 346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 778-600-369
All meetings are waiting room enabled, please stand by on the day of the meeting to be let in

Website: <https://grandorators.toastmastersclubs.org>



The third annual Epic Plunge is here for Epic guests to kick off the new year by taking the “polar plunge” into anticipated water temperatures in the 50's! Thaw off with a cup of hot chocolate in the park's 84 degree weather and commemorate the day with an “I conquered the Epic Plunge” long-sleeved t-shirt. Tickets for City Employees are just \$25 at the door! The ticket includes a full day's admission to into the park after the event and a portion of the proceeds will benefit Play-Grand Adventures!